

**Remarks/Arguments**

Please enter this preliminary amendment before calculating the filing fee.

The original claims were amended to eliminate multiple claim dependency and put them in U.S. form.

Claims 1 to 27 are pending. Original Claims 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 17 have been amended. New Claims 18 to 27 have been added.

The specification has been amended to insert the priority benefit paragraph.

Respectfully submitted,

12/14/04  
Date

Kara M. Armstrong  
Kara M. Armstrong  
Reg. No. 38,234

Fisher, Christen & Sabol  
1725 K St. NW  
Suite 1108  
Washington, DC 20006  
Tel.: 202-659-2000  
Fax: 202-659-2015